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LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 January 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning violations and acts of aggression committed against Iraq by United States and other aircraft and warships.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 18 January 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to our letter dated 18 July 1997 addressed to the President of the Security Council conveying detailed information on the violations and acts of aggression committed by United States and other aircraft and warships between 1 January and 30 June 1997 (S/1997/565, annex) and to our letter dated 12 November 1997 also addressed to the President of the Council and conveying detailed information on the violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq committed by United States and other warplanes in the northern and southern sectors between 29 October and 11 November 1997 (S/1997/881, annex).

In the present letter, I wish to call your attention to the fact that between 1 July and 31 December 1997 there were 10,546 violations of the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the south by aircraft coming from bases in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and 1,912 violations of its airspace in the north by aircraft coming from bases in Turkey. The number of violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq in 1997 was thus 21,709, of which 19,033 were in southern Iraq and 2,676 were in northern Iraq.

In committing these violations, the aircraft involved carried out such acts of aggression, provocation and incitement as dropping heat flares and breaking the sound barrier over Iraqi civilian areas and installations. United States warships also engaged in acts of aggression inside and outside Iraqi territorial waters that were documented and communicated by us to the United Nations Secretariat at the time they took place. They included those set forth hereunder.

1. On 16 July 1997 United States aircraft dropped heat flares on wheat and barley fields in the Duwaylah area of Diyala Governorate, setting fire to two plantations belonging to the Iraqi farmers Raja Hasan Ali and Ali Abbas Khalaf.

2. On 26 July 1997 United States aircraft dropped heat flares and some of them fell on the home of the citizen Subayh Jabbar in Hayy al-Husayn in Basrah Governorate.

3. On 6 August 1997 United States Navy forces intercepted the North Korean freighter Kwang Mayung inside Iraqi territorial waters. It was loaded with cleaning detergent being imported by Iraq under the terms of the memorandum of understanding. The vessel was searched in an arbitrary manner and part of its cargo was thrown on deck, thereby destroying it. Some electrical appliances belonging to the crew were also thrown into the sea.

4. On 14 and 17 October 1997 United States frigate No. 46 manoeuvred 500 metres to the south of Mina' al-Bakr port. A United States helicopter from the frigate then overflew the port in a provocative manner.

6. On 17 and 21 October 1997 United States warplanes violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr and Mina' al-Bakr area.

7. On 24 and 26 October 1997 United States fighter aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr port.

8. On 7 November 1997 a formation of United States warplanes broke the sound barrier over the town of Tall Afar in northern Iraq.

9. On 9 November 1997 a formation of two United States warplanes broke the sound barrier in the Jalibah area of southern Iraq.

10. On 19, 20 and 21 November 1997 United States warplanes violated Iraqi airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

11. On 27 November 1997 a formation of United States warplanes broke the sound barrier over the civilian areas to the west of Basrah city.

12. On 2 December 1997 a formation of two United States warplanes broke the sound barrier over the town of Najaf.

13. On 4 and 7 December 1997 United States warplanes violated Iraqi airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

14. On 15 and 16 December 1997 United States warplanes violated Iraqi airspace over the towns of Umm Qasr and Shu'aybah.

15. On 22 December 1997 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the town of Sinjar in northern Iraq.

We condemn these acts of aggression and provocation committed by the United States and others, and we urge you to intervene with the countries in question with a view to halting and ensuring that there is no repetition of unwarranted actions that not only constitute grave violations on the part of a permanent member of the Security Council of the sovereignty of an independent State and a founding Member of the United Nations as well as of the Charter of the United Nations but also represent a breach of the principle enunciated in Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The countries whose aircraft and ships engage in these acts of aggression and those in which the aircraft are based also bear full responsibility for these actions, for the damage they have caused and for the security, economic and moral threats they have posed to the people of the Republic of Iraq.

We also affirm the legally establisned right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage it has sustained through acts of aggression that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of public international law.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure I

Aerial violations in southern Iraq committed by United States and other warplanes coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 1 July-31 December 1997

Month	From Saudi Arabia	From Kuwait	Total
July	567 (including 542 sorties by fighter aircraft and 25 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	451	1 018
August	634 (including 598 sorties by fighter aircraft and 36 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	418	1 052
September	740 (including 716 sorties by fighter aircraft and 24 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	576	1 316
October	1,352 (including 1,333 sorties by fighter aircraft and 19 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	1 076	2 428
November	1,463 (including 1,451 sorties by fighter aircraft and 12 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	959 (including 951 sorties by fighter aircraft and 8 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	2 422
December	1,172 (including 1,165 sorties by fighter aircraft and 7 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	1,138 (including 1,133 sorties by fighter aircraft and 5 by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft)	2 310
Total	5 928	4 618	10 546

Enclosure II

Aerial violations in northern Iraq committed by United States and other warplanes coming from Turkey, 1 July-31 December 1997

Month	Violations	Total
January	118	
February	137	
March	168	764
April	137	
May	77	
June	127	
July	177	
August	156	
September	158	1 912
October	250	
November	603	
December	568	
	Total	2 676